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Monday, April 8, 2013

THE MORNING NEWS

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Three events to celebrate the coronation of our New King

ORANJESTAD -- Well-known Curacao journalist Mavis Albertina is one of the 8 members of a commission called into life to observe all that is being done and organized around the 30th of April when the Dutch Kingdom after 123 years is ruled by a King. By special request of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, Mavis Albertina and the commission were approached to organize an event during the change of the Kingdom which would include all



six islands. Her Majesty wishes for the entire Kingdom to participate in an event together on April 30. The commission decided to organize three events.

Song for the new King

The Dutch Kingdom will be receiving a young and dynamic King with his Queen at his side. The idea was born to compose a new song especially for the new King, a song that would be always sung. Every citizen in the Kingdom may help compose this song. Everyone can participate by submitting a phrase about what their dream is for our Kingdom.

If you can explain your dream in one inspirational phrase, you can submit it to the judges who will select from what has been submitted. They will select the best phrase, the most innovative, and the most appealing phrase. After the judges have selected the phrases, a professional group, under the direction of singer and author, John Ewbank, will compose a song of the different phrases, according to Mavis Albertina. When the song is completely composed, different artists from the entire Dutch Kingdom will sing it together and produce a video clip.

On April 30th, the entire Dutch Kingdom will sing this song at around 1:30 mid-day for our new King. They will try to arrange for this through the cooperation of television

channels in cooperation with NOS so that everyone in the Dutch Kingdom, including the royal couple can enjoy the new song. To participate, send the phrase of your dream to www.deeljouwddroom.nl. Your phrase must be submitted before April 10th.

Dream for my country

Everyone can also participate in the "Soño pa nos pais" (Dream for our country). This can be done through a poem, a letter, a work of art, or via a video of maximum one minute. Your written material may be maximum 2 thousand words. On the same website, www.deeljouwddroom.nl, you will find all the different ways that you can submit your dream for the new King. Should your dream be chosen by the judges, it will be included in a book that would be submitted to all families in the Dutch Kingdom. Your dream will be included in this book for all eternity. The 50 chosen dreams will be exhibited from April 30 up to the end of November at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.

Your dream can be composed together with other persons, with a school, organization, with friends or family. You may submit your dream in English, Dutch or in Papiamentu. The language will be no problem for the judges. The phrase for the new song must be used and get its form in the "Soño di mi Pais" project.

Continued on page 2

Tens of thousands march in Caracas; show support for Capriles



CARACAS-- Venezuela's opposition candidate Henrique Capriles called tens of thousands of supporters onto the streets of the government's stronghold in downtown Caracas yesterday, in a show of strength a week before he faces Nicolas Maduro in a presidential vote.

More often seen filled with the red flags and T-shirts of Chavez's loyal supporters, the historic Bolivar Avenue in the center of the capital was packed with opposition supporters decked out in the blue,

yellow and red of Capriles' campaign.

Acting leader Nicolas Maduro has vowed to continue the hard-line socialism of his late boss, Hugo Chavez, if he wins the election on April 14. Maduro was holding a giant rally yesterday in rural Apure state, on the border with Colombia.

Both candidates are touring the South American country during a lightning, 10-day campaign ahead of next Sunday's vote.

Capriles, who is predicting

a late pro-opposition surge as sympathy wears off after Chavez's death, is vowing to install a Brazilian-style administration of free-market economics with strong social welfare policies.

The race took a somewhat surreal turn on Saturday when Maduro said a centuries-old curse would fall on the heads of those who do not vote for him.

Despite the opposition leader's optimism, opinion polls give the 50-year-old Maduro a lead of more than 10 percentage points.

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Coronation...new King

Continued from page 1

Rolly Bislik recognized as a stalwart of the Savaneta Barrio!

Mijn droom voor ons land

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Home Over dit initiatief Doe mee Ingezonden dromen Droomboek Vragen Inloggen

Inspiratie voor **de Koning**

Heb jij een inspirerende droom voor Nederland en/of de Caribische gebieden van ons Koninkrijk? Dit is jouw kans om deze droom te delen met de rest van het land. Als inspiratiebron voor elkaar en onze nieuwe Koning Willem-Alexander en Koningin Máxima.

Daarnaast zal een jury dromen selecteren voor publicatie in het Droomboek, dat op 5 september 2013 aan het Koninklijk paar zal worden aangeboden. Misschien ben jij daar straks wel bij.

Dus deel nu jouw droom voor ons land ter inspiratie van ons allemaal!

Deel jouw droom

Bekijk andere dromen

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Aruba

Bonaire

Curaçao

Sint Maarten

Sint Eustatius

Saba

“Een veilige leefomgeving voor mijn kinderen”

- Wesley ter Harenstein

Kingdom Games

Nicole Hoevertsz explained what the Kingdom games will be. On the 26th of April the Kingdom games will take place on Aruba. These games will include all primary schools on the island. There are about 35 primary schools on the island with about 10.000 children getting an education. The Dutch Prince is very athletic and his wish is that the change of the crown be celebrated with a tinge of athleticism, where as many children as possible can be involved.

April 26 will begin with a breakfast for all children of primary schools throughout the Dutch Kingdom. The breakfast

will be sponsored by the Dutch brand Jumbo. Following the breakfast the children will continue with the Kingdom games at their respective schools or at a club or nearby open field. These will not be competitive games.

All primary schools on Aruba should contact IBI&S, which is the organization that will be coordinating all the games. On Facebook there is a page under the name "weganan di rey," where you can obtain information. According to Nicole Hoevertsz, the first school to register is Colegio Cristo Rey. The enthusiasm for this event is very high, says Hoevertsz.

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RESTAURANT - ART GALLERY

Record-setting Roly Bisslik receives hero welcome after Venezuela-Aruba swim

Aruba long-distance swimmer, Roly Bislik, is seen in above NEWS being cheered by hundreds of supporters at his glorious arrival yesterday afternoon at Bonaire at the southern coast of the island, as he became the first person to ever swim across the 28.4-km sea channel between Venezuela and Aruba. Bislik, a 37-year-old sports instructor-turned politician-her's a member of the island's States (Estatu), braved an unexpected rough sea with various high waves and strong under water current to swim the distance in ten hours and 27 minutes. Bislik has dedicated his grueling feat, which will soon be inserted in the "Guinness Book of World Records," to Aruba Dolphins Swimming Club's fundraising efforts to acquire land in Savaneta to build an Olympic-size regulation swimming pool.



He was born, Agripino Rolando Bislik, but is best known by his nickname, Roly. Roly Bislik is a popular figure on the island and is also well-known internationally for his many personal achievements. Today he is recognized as a stalwart of the Savaneta Barrio where he was born, grew up and still lives to this day.

Rely was born in a humble home led by his father who was a welder as well as a fisherman. They lived with their mother and 15 other persons in the same house. They were actually 18 of them in the same house with their grandfather, and uncle and others. They ate iguana, pigeon, chicken, but there was always food on their table, says Roly.

As a youngster he attended John Wesley College, after which he began working for the Lago Refinery where he was hired as an apprentice mechanical engineer. After a one year study program he was offered the position of head of his department. The same day he received that offer, however, he was asked to teach physical education at

his former school.

Instead, he went to Holland to study where he met his wife, Winnie. They have raised two sons and now two grandchildren. It was back in 1976 when Roly first made a public statement about Aruba needing an Olympic pool. In 1985, when the Lago Refinery shut down, together with his wife, they decided not to go to Holland and be employed there in a secure job, but to remain on Aruba and work to help our island during her most difficult time.

On the 7th of August, 1988, Roly was finally able to realize his dream: for Aruba to have an Olympic pool. Roly swam 30 kilometers between

Venezuela and Aruba in a fundraising project for the Olympic pool.

Today, he says that he is very happy that Ramon Lee had the courage to name the pool after him.

He says, "it is such a delight to teach swimming classes in the pool that bears my name."

The Prime Minister was delighted to visit Roly Bislik this past week and to express words of praise and endearment for his tremendous contribution to Savaneta and Aruba. Roly is indeed one of the true stalwarts of Savaneta and deserves the recognition he received.



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A stylish inaugural Wine, Women and Fashion at Palm Beach Plaza



Parliamentarian Desiree Croes welcomes everyone

Palm Beach Plaza event planners have taken advantage of the enormous diversity of the elegant mall by hosting a monthly event deploying their many amenities

and attractions. Being the first Saturday of the month, April 6 welcomed island fashionistas for Wine, Women and Fashion, where for a modest fee, attendees

received goody bags, free wine tasting, attendance to the film of their choice at Caribbean Cinemas, and a fashion show in the central courtyard from four of the many sleek stores that line the mall's hallways. Aruban Parliamentarian Desiree Croes welcomed the audience to the first of what she described as an "exciting and original concept" for making the most of one of Aruba's most interesting entertainment centers.

"This is a ripping good idea," commented local fashion photographer Angelo Trimon, while sipping a bit of Tribu Sauvignon Blanc from Romar Trading on the second level VIP section. The entry fee also allowed access to this special area, for the most ideal view of the fashions on parade.

Keeping in mind that this should be a fun family night for all, the shopping center also made good use of their spacious third floor facilities to provide a testosterone-laden retreat for the man in the family, and their kids gym and Dream Bowl alley, to allow both parents to relax and enjoy a fun night.

The men's center included billiards, arcade favorites and unlimited beer for 45 minutes, while whichever "big game" was being broadcast that night could be watched



Young fashionistas are ready to enjoy the night

on the giant plasma screen.

Kids were kept busy with bowling, games, storytelling, face painting, arts and crafts

and balloon making, including snacks and refreshments.

Continued on page 5




VIP section offered a great view, with snacks and wine

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New collection by island artist Danilo Geerman "Objects on Land" opens at the National Library

Noted island artist Danilo Geerman unveiled an extensive new collection of artwork on Friday evening, March 5, which will remain on display in the exhibition of the National Library until Friday, April 19. The exposition, titled "Objects on Land," is something of a departure for the artist, deploying a wide variety of media, while exploring the surrealistic, "Daliesque" style that has intrigued him so for the last five years.

Danilo returned to Aruba from Holland to show his first collection of works exploring this subject in 2007. He has been including in many group art shows and has had several solo shows at various island galleries since his first at the library in 1994.

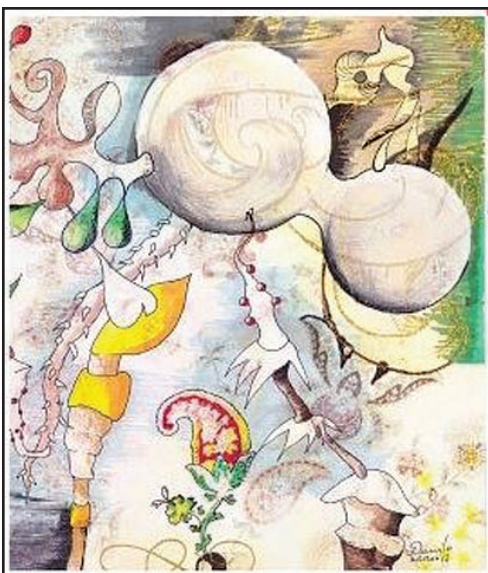
This present exhibit marks over 25 years of Geerman being very active on the Aruban art scene. He has explored reworking themes and subjects in a long series of ink block print and installations. "This is not a Fairy Tale" is a particularly involving series of three works of



Danilo Geerman

combined mediums. Filled with intriguing symbolism and references, they require quite some study to fully appreciate.

Other departures from the paintings that have been his main focus over the last few years, are interpretations of his theme in pastels, colored pencil, and some semi-realistic pen-



colored pencil and ink

cils sketches of iconic Aruban landscapes and objects. Ironically, the twisted, gnarled formation of a Divi tree and other Aruban objects appear to lend themselves perfectly to the surrealist vistas that seem to inhabit the artist's inner landscape.

The new collection is on display Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The artists will be on hand to discuss his work.

Rosalie Klein



Pencil sketch of divi tree

Russia, Nicaraguan Navy seize large quantity of cocaine in Caribbean



MANAGUA -- Nicaraguan naval forces and Russian drug enforcement agents seized 100 packages of cocaine on the high seas, state media reported, citing military spokesmen.

The narco intercept, which occurred the night of April 4 as part of "Operation Sovereignty," is perhaps Nicaragua's farthest-reaching drug bust to date. It occurred in waters that were awarded to Nicaragua in last November's ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The navy recovered an abandoned go-fast boat and 116 kilos of the drugs that were

pitched overboard (the army presumes the rest of the drugs floated away). The smugglers apparently escaped on a second boat that was there to make the handoff, according to the military's report to local media.

Nicaragua's Caribbean region provides a natural smuggling corridor for drug traffickers moving narcotics from Colombia into the United States.

Nicaragua and Russia signed an agreement to fight drug trafficking. Russian officials placed the cornerstone for an anti-drug training center in Managua in March.



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Inspiring concert by Jorge and Harold Martina

ORANJESTAD -- On Wednesday, April 10, Jorge and Harold Martina will present a concert at the Cas di Cultura. The concert is at 8 p.m.

Generations after generations of music was a binding factor in the Martina family. It's a way of life to connect, make friends and bring worlds together. As brothers from a musical Antillean/Colombian descent and nephews of world famous concert pianist Harold Martina, they enjoyed their youth with classical music. While Harold chose the piano, Jorge was more inspired to use his voice as an instrument. Jorge (tenor) and Harold (piano) have deployed a vast repertoire that is influenced by European as well as by Latin American and Antillean composers.

Their recent launched CD, named "EnCanto," has 18 songs that clearly reflects the roots of the two brothers. The CD has classical pieces from Latin American, Antillean and European composers. The brothers make their own arrangements of the Antillean (Papiamentu) and Latin American folk songs giving them a classical tint.

Both Jorge and Harold live in the Netherlands, but as they always say: "We both stay in the triangle of Colombia, Curacao and the Netherlands and always meet in some of these countries"

Eventhough both brothers have chosen a professional career in commerce, their passion is music and they have already performed in the Netherlands, Colombia, Curacao, France, Italy and Poland

During their upcoming tour in the West they will also perform in Aruba. The concert is organized by the Aruba Art Circle in cooperation with its loyal sponsors, among others the 'Prins Bernhard Fonds Caraibische Gebied.'

Jorge and Harold offer a complete program with a selection of their recent CD "EnCanto" with composers such as Josph Cosen, Jacobo Palm and dr. Rudy Chang.

Entrance is fls. 35, members Afls 30. Youth tickets are Afls 15 and are only available at the concert hall

Tickets for this concert are available at DeWit and Van Dorp Libraries and Plaza Bookshop and if any left, at the door on the night of the concert.

A stylish inaugural Wine . . at Palm Beach Plaza

Continued from page 3



Every lady gets and eco friendly goody bag

Other new promotions initiated with the beginning of April are a monthly raffle; tickets are awarded at all stores for each 25 Aruban florins spent. The Palm Beach Plaza has also installed a bingo card system. Cards will be punched when shopping at each store, and full cards or patterns can win patrons great prizes.

Palm Beach Plaza offers three floors of dining, shopping and entertainment from 10:00 AM until 10:00 PM nightly. Their interesting mix of stores will insure and interesting and fun time.

Rosalie Klein



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China boosts bird flu response as cases rise

SHANGHAI (AFP) - China confirmed three more cases of bird flu yesterday, as authorities sought to curb a deadly outbreak by banning live poultry sales and disinfecting schools.

The new cases of the H7N9 strain of avian influenza brought the number recorded in China's developed eastern region to 21 since it was announced a week ago that the virus had been found in humans for the first time.

Six people have died, including four in the commercial city of Shanghai, which has recorded 10 cases of the disease.

Of the three newly confirmed cases, two were elderly men in Shanghai who are receiving treatment, Shanghai's local government said.

The third was a 55-year-old man working in the live poultry trade and was reported in east China's Anhui province, according to state news agency Xinhua.

Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control said yesterday it was investigating two possible cases involving people who travelled to the affected area in mainland China.

China stepped up efforts yesterday to halt the deadly outbreak, with state media saying "intense" farming methods had heightened the risk of deadly diseases crossing from animals to humans.

The education ministry ordered schools nationwide to "guarantee" the health of students against infectious disease, including H7N9, by ensuring the safety of food and monitoring for symptoms of illness.

In Shanghai workers sprayed disinfectant in classrooms, local television showed, while markets were closed to halt the spread of the disease.

Shanghai had already banned live poultry trading while nearby Nanjing city has followed suit and Hangzhou culled poultry after discovering infected quail.

In an editorial on Sunday the state-backed Global Times newspaper said farming methods were helping to spread the disease.

"In China's southern and eastern coastal areas, agriculture, especially animal husbandry, has become more intense and populations more dense," said the English-language edition of the paper. "There is greater chance of contact between humans and animals and subsequent diseases."

It called for higher standards in the agricultural industry and more balanced development, instead of a narrow focus on rapid economic growth.

Chinese authorities, who have confirmed H7N9 in birds, maintain there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus.



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Chilean poet Neruda to be exhumed today

ISLA NEGRA : AFP photo gives a view of the tomb of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda in Isla Negra, some 120 km (75 miles) west of Santiago. The remains of Chilean Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda will be exhumed today to determine if he actually died of cancer or was poisoned, a judicial source told AFP. The leftist poet, who died just days after the 1973 military coup that ousted socialist president Salvador Allende, and brought General Augusto Pinochet to power, was long believed to have died of prostate cancer. Neruda's family and the official foundation that administers his work have both accepted the official cause of death, saying in a 2011 statement that there was "no evidence or proof" to suggest foul play. But officials in 2011 started looking into the possibility he was poisoned by agents of the Pinochet regime, as claimed by Neruda's driver. The exhumation was ordered last month by Judge Mario Carroza but no specific date had been made public. Neruda is buried next to his wife Matilde Urrutia in Isla Negra, 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the capital Santiago. He won the 1971 Nobel Prize in Literature and is best known for his love poems, as well as his "Canto General" -- an epic poem about South America's history and its people.



Ex-dictator Musharraf approved to run in Pakistan poll



CHITRAL (AFP) - Pakistani poll officials yesterday approved former military dictator Pervez Musharraf to run for parliament in the upcoming general election, despite a litany of legal challenges against him.

Musharraf ruled Pakistan for nine years after seizing power in a bloodless coup in 1999 and returned to Pakistan from self-imposed exile last month vowing to run for the May 11 poll in four constituencies.

He remains a hugely controversial figure nearly five years after he resigned in the face of impeachment proceedings and his All-Pakistan Muslim League party is not thought to be a serious contender for power at the polls.

Majority of Spaniards disapprove of king

MADRID (AFP) - A slim majority of Spaniards disapprove of King Juan Carlos, an opinion poll published yesterday showed, after scandals over an elephant-hunting trip and a corruption probe centred on his son-in-law.

The poll published in centre-left newspaper El Pais showed 53 percent disapproved of the way the 75-year-old head of state is carrying out his functions, against 42 percent who approved.

That gave him an overall approval-versus-disapproval rating of -11, compared to +21 in December, a lower rating than the one received by tax inspectors or lawyers and the first time that he has received a negative rating.

Disapproval of the monarch, who is recovering from surgery in March for slipped discs, his seventh operation in three years, was highest among left-wing voters and people aged 18 to 34. Among those in this age group, the king's approval-versus-disapproval rating stood at -41.

The poll was carried out by the Metroscopia polling firm for the newspaper in March, before a judge on Wednesday named the king's youngest daughter, Princess Cristina, as a suspect in a corruption case.

The case, which was opened at the end of 2011, is centered on allegations of embezzlement and influence peddling against Cristina's husband, for-

mer Olympic handball player Inaki Urdangarin, and his former business partner Diego Torres. The pair are suspected of overbilling regional governments to stage sports and tourism events, and then syphoning off money to the non-profit Noos Institute, which Urdangarin chaired from 2004 to 2006.

The king won wide respect in Spain for helping guide it through a political transition after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

But his image suffered last year due to the corruption scandal and an expensive elephant-hunting holiday which he took in Botswana while Spain was struggling through a steep recession and a record jobless rate of 26 percent.

The king broke his hip during the trip and had to be flown home for medical care.

He issued an unprecedented public apology after his return but the affair fuelled calls from some quarters that he should abdicate in favour of his 45-year-old-son, Prince Felipe, the youngest of his three children with Queen Sofia.

Felipe's approval ratings have also taken a hit but remain broadly favourable.

A majority of Spaniards, 61 percent, approve of Felipe against 33 percent who disapprove, giving him an overall approval-versus-disapproval rating of +28, compared to +37 in December.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Officials: NATO strike kills 11 children in Afghanistan

ASAD ABAD (AFP) - A NATO air attack in eastern Afghanistan has killed 11 children, officials said yesterday, the latest case of civilian casualties which provoke great anger in the war-torn country.

The children were killed during a joint Afghan-NATO operation in the Shigal district of restive Kunar province bordering Pakistan late on Saturday.

An Afghan official involved in the operation who did not want to be named said air support was called in after local and coalition forces came under attack, resulting in the death of an American and injuries to several Afghan soldiers. The official said the force did not know there were women and children in the houses that were hit.

Civilian casualties caused by NATO forces have been one of the most contentious issues in the 11-year campaign against Taliban insurgents, provoking harsh criticism from Afghan President Hamid Karzai and angry public protests.

The president "strongly

condemned the ISAF air strike in Kunar that killed 11 children," in a statement issued by his office.

Local officials including Shigal district governor Abdul Zahir had earlier given a death toll of 10 children killed and six women wounded, while Sayed Rahman, security commander of Shigal, said one woman was also among the dead.

A spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) confirmed the strike and said the coalition was gathering information to determine what happened.

US-led coalition forces are winding down their operations before a scheduled withdrawal of the bulk of their 100,000 troops by the end of 2014, and racing to prepare Afghan forces to take over responsibility for security.

But a brazen attack last Wednesday -- when Taliban gunmen killed 46 people at a court in the western city of Farah to try to free insurgents standing trial -- raised further questions about the Afghans' ability to secure the country.

72 dead in Mumbai building collapse as search ends

MUMBAI (AFP) - Authorities on the weekend abandoned a search for more survivors from the collapse of a seven-storey building on Mumbai's outskirts that killed 72 people, saying there was no hope of finding anybody else alive.

The cave-in of the partly finished building highlighted widespread shoddy building standards in the country where there is huge demand for housing and pervasive corruption often means cost-cutting and no inspections.

"The rescue work is now over since there is no hope of finding any more survivors," Sandeep Malvi, Thane municipal corporation spokesman, told AFP. "The death toll is now 72. About 36 are injured and undergoing treatment. At least 126 people have been rescued."

Most of the victims were poor daily wage earners working at the site and their families, who were living with them.

Two builders arrested over



Police and rescue officials carry the mortal remains of a deceased from under the rubble and debris at the site of the collapsed building.

the deadly collapse of a seven-storey apartment block that killed 74 people appeared yesterday in court in western India.

Jamil Qureshi and Salim Sheikh had fled after the illegal structure in Thane district on the outskirts of Mumbai collapsed on Thursday evening but were arrested by police a day later.

The pair, along with seven others arrested in connection

with the tragedy, were remanded in judicial custody till April 20, police said.

"Apart from the builders, we have also arrested some public servants who were involved in this. The builders had bribed them," Thane police commissioner K.P. Raghuvarshi told a press conference.

The building collapse was the deadliest since 2010 when 69 people were killed in New Delhi in a similar incident.

Majority of French favour reshuffle after tax scandal

PARIS (AFP) - Nearly two-thirds of French people are in favour of a government reshuffle following a tax fraud scandal that has rocked the administration of President Francois Hollande, a survey showed yesterday.

Critics have rounded on Hollande -- already in the doldrums in opinion polls -- over the scandal in which ex-budget minister Jerome Cahuzac faces charges of tax fraud after he admitted owning an undeclared foreign bank account containing some 600,000 euros (\$770,000).

Three in five respondents to a poll conducted for the Journal du Dimanche newspaper said they said they were in favour of a government reshuffle soon over the "Cahuzac af-

fair".

A majority of the more than 1,000 respondents also said the scandal had had a negative impact on Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, his government and on Hollande himself.

"For the French, the Cahuzac affair is not an isolated act. There is mistrust towards their elected representatives," Frederic Dabi, deputy head of Ifop, the polling company that conducted the survey, was quoted as saying.

The scandal erupted Tuesday after Cahuzac -- once in charge of tackling tax evasion -- admitted to investigators that he had the account, after repeatedly denying it to the president, in parliament and in media interviews.

Critics promptly accused

Hollande and his deputies of either trying to cover up the scandal or of mismanagement for having believed Cahuzac's denials.

Hollande then came under even more criticism when it was revealed that his campaign treasurer, businessman Jean-Jacques Augier, had joint ownership of two firms registered in the Cayman Islands, a well-known tax haven.

Augier has said he had done nothing illegal and that his business activities were entirely separate from his political actions.

Last week, both Ayrault and the president rejected the idea of a government reshuffle, despite growing pressure from critics on either side of the political divide.



SRI LANKA, Colombo : A vintage Volkswagen Beetle car drives down a road during Volkswagen owner's club "pride of ownership" diamond jubilee rally 2013 in Colombo on April 7, 2013. Volkswagen owners hold an annual pageant in Sri Lanka to show off their vintage cars. (AFP PHOTO)

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Health & Living **Himalaya, India's booming herbal healthcare company**



BANGALORE, India (AFP) - Its raw materials are plants and it bases its products on texts dating back millennia, but don't dare call India's biggest herbal healthcare group a maker of "alternative medicine".

"It's high time people took us very seriously and did not view us as an alternative form of medicine," says Philippe Haydon, the India chief executive of the Himalaya group from his office in tech and healthcare hub Bangalore.

"This is not a feel-good product. This will save a man's life," he says, taking a box from a stack next to his desk.

It is marked Liv 52, a blend of six herbs used to treat liver disorders, and is one of the firms best-selling products.

In two recent clinical tests, results published in the World Journal of Gastroenterology in 2007 and in the Antiviral Research journal in 2009 showed significant results.

"It so happens that the input material is a herb but the rest of it is very very modern," said the 50-year-old, who joined Himalaya in 1979.

The group is an Indian healthcare success story, combining ancient traditional medicine known as Ayurveda

with cutting-edge technology.

Its air-tight production facility converts truck-loads of fragrant organic matter into eight million tablets a day and 10,000 bottles of medicine.

In the quality control area, men and women in lab coats



sit next to conveyor belts as tablets fly past on their way into plastic pots carrying Himalaya's green and orange labels.

In the research and development wing, 250 scientists are working to find new combinations of herbs whose active ingredients are extracted and concentrated to form products that are then tested by humans.

Sales have quadrupled in the last five years to reach 12 billion rupees (\$220 million) in 2012. Its target is a billion dollars in annual revenue in the next four years as it

spreads into foreign markets.

-- **Spreading Ayurveda** --

Ayurvedic medicine -- which means the "science of life" in Sanskrit -- treats the physical and mental sources of illness through, for example, prescribing herbs in conjunction with yoga or massage.

Much of the knowledge, passed on by word of mouth, predates written records, but two volumes of remedies and prescriptions have survived called the Caraka Samhita and the Sushruta Samhita.

"This is where it all begins, these herbal texts that were handed down 3,000 years ago," said Haydon.

"We look at the kind of combinations (of herbs) that are suggested and from that point onwards we have a group of scientists who bring contemporary medicine and science to those texts."

The group now has 75 remedies, including treatments for hypertension, kidney stones and cholesterol.

An estimated 80 percent of India's 1.2-billion population uses Ayurvedic medicine, partly for cost reasons, with a pack of 100 Liv 52 tablets selling for just 65 rupees (\$1.20).

To raise its profile and revenues, Himalaya branched out in 1996 into consumer products such as shampoos and sun cream.

Like the pharmaceuticals, these use herbs such as neem, a tree known as a "village pharmacy" in rural India due to the range of its medicinal properties.

Dotted around India but centred in the temperate foothills of the Himalayas, 4,000 producers of leaves, roots and plants are busy farming for the group on long-term contracts.

-- **Competition** --

The rejection of the "alternative" tag is partly borne of bitter experience in the West, where regulations on pharmaceuticals mean Himalaya's products are classed as food supplements and thus stocked alongside other treatments that Haydon dismisses as "feel-good products".

If Himalaya must be considered "alternative", he says it should be seen only as an alternative to multi-national pharmaceutical firms.

"We are competing with GlaxoSmithKline, Beechams and AstraZeneca. They have products for diabetes, so do we. They have products for hepatitis, so do we," he says.

Overall, the resources are tiny compared with a giant like GlaxoSmithKline which recorded a \$7.0-billion profit last year.

And Himalaya holds a mere eight patents having "got out of the patent race" because they offered little protection from competitors who could simply copy a combination, add a new herb and then claim it as a different product.

Jon Tilbur, an expert on modern Western and traditional medicine at the Mayo Clinic healthcare group in the United States, says he understands why Himalaya rejects the "alternative" label.

"There are plenty of herbal companies and all of them in some ways would like to have the esteem of a pharmaceutical company but then none of them wants the regulatory burden," he told AFP.

"They really want their own category of a sort of executive club for herbal players."

Generally the scientific evidence on alternative medicine is mixed, he said, echoing the World Health Organisation which has called for more funding to test traditional treatments from India, Africa or China.

And there are potential dangers that give the herbal industry a bad name.

A study published this month by Graham Lord, a professor of medicine at King's College London, warned about remedies once sold but now banned in the West that contain aristolochic acids linked to kidney failure.

"Herbal remedies around the world are not legislated as medicines," he told AFP. "Because it's herbal, it's not necessarily safe."

But for Himalaya, the future appears bright -- not least because the domestic drugs market is growing at an annual rate of 15 percent, according to the Confederation of Indian Industries.



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Sci-Tech

Japan scientists can 'read' dreams: study



TOKYO (AFP) - Scientists in Japan said recently they had found a way to "read" people's dreams, using MRI scanners to unlock some of the secrets of the unconscious mind.

Researchers have managed what they said was "the world's first decoding" of night-time visions, the subject of centuries of speculation that have captivated humanity since ancient times.

In the study, published in the journal *Science*, researchers at the ATR Computational Neuroscience Laboratories, in Kyoto, western Japan, used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans to locate exactly which part of the brain was active during the first moments of sleep.

The scientists then woke up the dreamers and asked them what images they had seen, a process that was repeated 200 times.

These answers were compared with the brain maps that had been produced by the MRI scanner, the researchers said, adding that they later built a database, based on the results.

On subsequent attempts they were able to predict what images the volunteers had seen with a 60 percent accuracy rate, rising to more than 70 percent with around 15 specific items including men,

words and books, they said.

"We have concluded that we successfully decoded some kinds of dreams with a distinctively high success rate," said Yukiyasu Kamitani, a senior researcher at the laboratories and head of the study team.

"Dreams have fascinated people since ancient times, but their function and meaning has remained closed," Kamitani told AFP. "I believe this result was a key step towards reading dreams more precisely."

His team is now trying to predict other dream experiences such as smells, colours and emotion, as well as entire stories in people's dreams.

"We would like to introduce a more accurate method so that we can work on a way of visualising dreams," he said.

Kamitani, however, admits that there is still a long way to go before they are anywhere near understanding a whole dream.

He said the decoding patterns differ for individuals and the database they have developed cannot be applied generally, rather it has to be generated for each person.

The experiment also only used the images the subjects were seeing right before they were woken up. Deep sleep, where subjects have more vivid dreams, remains a mystery.

"There are still a lot of things that are unknown," he added.

Kamitani's experiment is the latest in a government-led brain study programme aimed at applying the science to medical and welfare services, government officials said.

TV startup shakes up US broadcasters with court win

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A startup whose business model is based on tiny antennas receiving over-the-air television for online viewing by subscribers has put the US broadcast industry on the defensive.

Aereo made headlines on April 1 with a preliminary court victory over the major broadcasters, which had sought to shut down the service for copyright infringement.

The case, which is still pending, is seen by some as a potentially groundbreaking test: for consumers, whether they can "shift" TV viewing to the Web through a third party; and for broadcasters, whether they can maintain control of their content.

Aereo, which is backed by media mogul Barry Diller, launched in early 2012 in the New York area and was immediately sued by the major broadcast networks -- ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox -- for copyright infringement.

The company claims its actions are legal, because it is not rebroadcasting, but giving subscribers a personal antenna in its New York warehouse that enables them to watch live TV or record it for later viewing.

A US appeals court panel agreed with Aereo, in a preliminary decision on a request for an injunction to shut down the service. A full hearing in the case is still pending.

The court ruled 2-1 that Aereo was not retransmitting "public performances," which would be banned under copyright law, but merely allowing customers to rent antennas to receive and record free broadcasts.

Some called the ruling a victory for consumers, saying it will allow them to get out from constraints from cable companies, which call the shots for most US TV viewers.

NASA wants to tow an asteroid to the moon: senator

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NASA wants to grab a small asteroid and tow it into orbit around the moon, as part of a long-range plan towards establishing permanent manned outposts in space, according to a US senator.

To get the project off the ground, US President Barack Obama will propose around \$100 million for the US space agency in his 2014 budget, which he submits to Congress on Wednesday, Senator Bill Nelson said in a statement.

"This is part of what will be a much broader program," the Florida Democrat explained.

"The plan combines the science of mining an asteroid, along with developing ways to deflect one, along with providing a place to develop ways we can go to Mars."

The plan calls for a robotic-spacecraft to capture the asteroid and tow it back towards Earth, ultimately leaving it in a stable orbit around the moon, close enough that, within eight years, astronauts could head on over.

A similar plan was initially proposed in 2012 by experts at the California Institute of Technology, and the group, along with other top researchers in the field, have since prepared a detailed study into the project's feasibility.

"It would be mankind's first attempt at modifying the heavens to enable the permanent settlement of humans in space," scientists said in their report.

Obama's goal of sending a manned mission to a near-Earth asteroid by 2025 is impossible given NASA's current and projected funding levels, expert analysis has suggested.

But using an unmanned vehicle to instead bring a 500-ton asteroid close to home could change the game and get humans to an asteroid as early as 2021, four years ahead of the deadline.

Once there, "there could be mining activities, research into ways of deflecting an asteroid from striking Earth, and testing to develop technology for a trip to deep space and Mars," Nelson's statement said.

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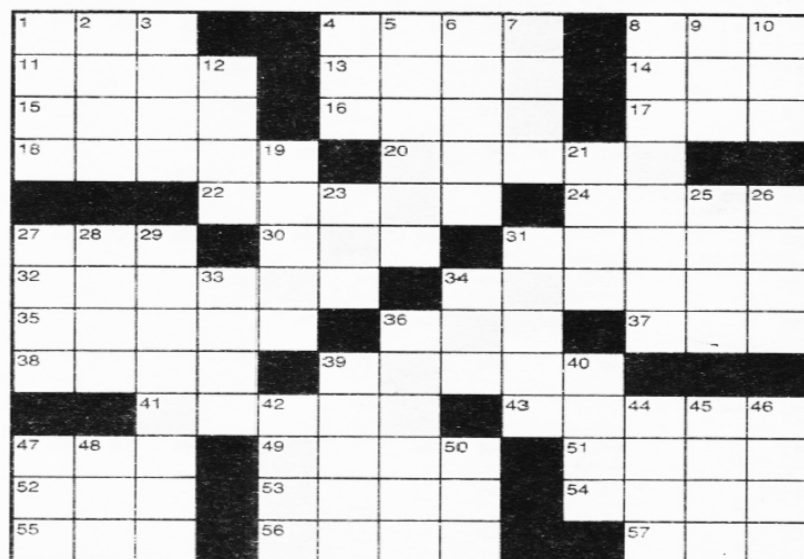
1. NYC summer setting
4. Papa's partner
8. LP abbr.
11. Stead
13. Milky stone
14. Width of Shaq's shoes
15. Blanc and Ott
16. British title
17. Grabbed the bait
18. Derives (from)
20. "Crazy" singer
22. Greek letter
24. ___ mater
27. Delivery option (abbr.)
30. Ending for suburban or meteor
31. Office worker, at times
32. Shines
34. Show mercy
35. Raise with effort
36. "___ It Be" (Beatles song)
37. Dentist's degree (abbr.)
38. Store special
39. Baseball's Johnny ___
41. In a snit
43. Native of India, perhaps
47. Wedding words (2 wds.)
49. Sikorsky or Stravinsky
51. Exclamations
52. Charged
53. Harriet, to Ozzie
54. Domicile
55. "___ Impossible"
56. Facts, informally
57. And not
58. Particle
59. Harriet, to Ozzie
60. Domicile
61. "___ Impossible"
62. Facts, informally
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92. Facts, informally
93. And not
94. Particle
95. Harriet, to Ozzie
96. Domicile
97. "___ Impossible"
98. Facts, informally
99. And not
100. Particle

DOWN

1. Shade sources
2. The South Beach ___
3. Prefix for gram
4. "The Simpsons" tavern owner
5. Southwestern Indian
6. Actress Gibbs of "The Jeffersons"
7. "___ Know" (2 wds.)
8. Staged a mutiny
9. Canadian prov.
10. Ran across
12. Sch. for officers
19. Slug's trail
21. Apprehend
23. Liquid measures (abbr.)
25. Fix
26. Painting and music
27. Sounds of disgust
28. Earnest request
29. Zoo cut-ups (2 wds.)
31. Go get
33. Declare firmly
34. Stimp's cartoon companion
36. Began (2 wds.)
39. Get started
40. ___ school
42. Flightless bird
44. Popular Vegas gas
45. Test-driver's car
46. Consumer
47. Half of VI
48. Period
50. Vintage auto

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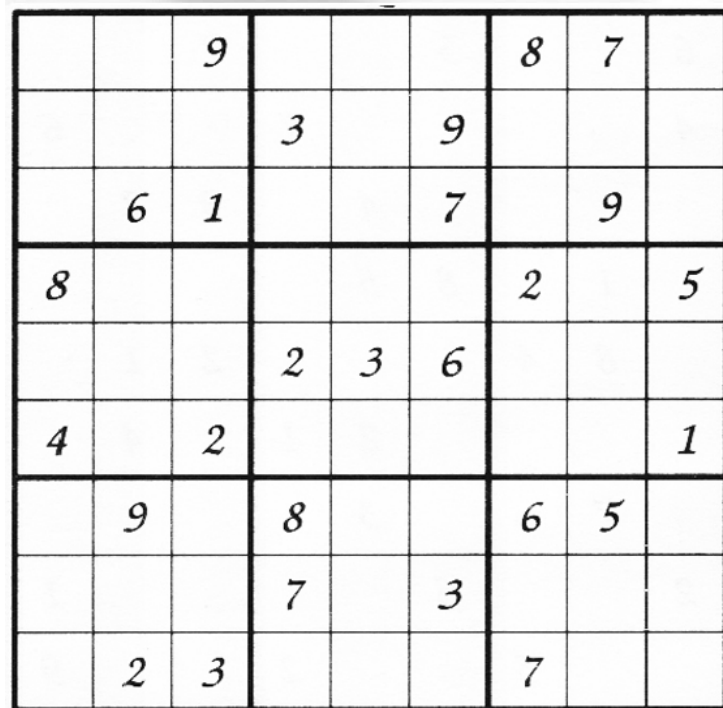
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6	2	1	3	8	7	5	9	4
5	9	3	2	8	7	6	4	1
1	9	6	8	2	5	7	3	4
3	5	7	1	6	9	4	8	2
2	6	5	4	8	7	1	9	3
7	1	5	6	9	3	8	2	4
9	4	8	3	1	6	7	5	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

FINANCE

Minister: Luxembourg ready to revise bank secrecy

BERLIN (AFP) - Luxembourg is prepared to lift the lid slightly on its controversial bank secrecy in an effort to help curb tax evasion by foreign depositors, its finance minister told a Sunday newspaper.

Following intense criticism by eurozone partners of Luxembourg's insular banking practices, Luc Frieden told Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung it would now consider moves toward greater transparency.

"We want to strengthen cooperation with foreign tax authorities," he said. "The international trend is going toward an automatic exchange of bank deposit information. We no longer strictly oppose that."

He cited interest payments to foreign clients as an example of data that could be given to home countries as a matter of course.

"Luxembourg does not rely on clients who want to save on their taxes."

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble called the remarks good news.

"I welcome every step toward an automatic exchange of information," he told Monday's issue of the daily Saar-

bruecker Zeitung, which provided an advance copy.

"We are in close consultations with Luxembourg and discussed the issue a few weeks ago during a meeting of the German-speaking finance ministers in Berlin."

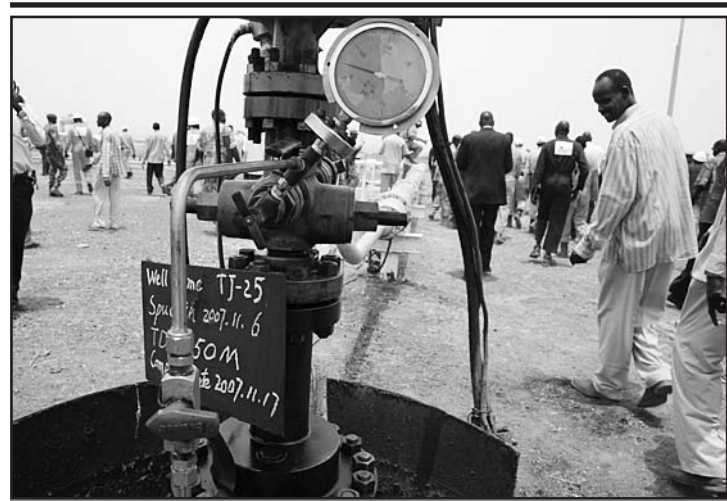
One of six founding members of the EU, Luxembourg has increasingly come under the microscope in post-global financial crisis legislative clean-up action, primarily for its culture of banking secrecy.

Frieden said recently he wants finance clients to come to Luxembourg "not to escape taxation... but because our products and services are better geared to international needs."

The Luxembourg government said the sector includes 141 banks from 26 countries and 3,840 investment funds sold in 70 other countries.

The issue gained fresh prominence this month when a vast trove of emails and leaked records from offshore tax havens exposed the identities of thousands of account holders.

The release prompted fresh calls to crack down on banking systems that facilitate tax dodging.



SOUTH SUDAN, THAR JATH : Oil mining employees walk near the first well to restart production in the Thar Jath field in Unity state on April 6, 2013. South Sudan restarted oil production on April 6, ending a bitter 15-month row with former civil war foe Sudan and marking a major breakthrough in relations after bloody border clashes last year. (AFP PHOTO)

Argentina floods caused \$5 billion in damage

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Damage from last week's record rains and flooding in Argentina exceeded five billion dollars, according to officials, who said yesterday that more than 350,000 people suffered losses in property. Flooding submerged cars and sent people scrambling to rooftops for safety, inundating Buenos Aires and the city of La Plata, some 60 kilometers (40 miles) south of the capital. Authorities said the storm damaged some 60,000 homes in La Plata -- about a quarter of all the dwellings in the city of nearly one million people.

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IMF's Lagarde says Euro has 'long-standing future'

BOAO, China (AFP) - International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde yesterday told an audience in China that the euro has a solid future and that she hopes no more countries in Europe will need bailouts.

"I think the collective political will... to maintain, defend, protect and enhance the monetary zone and currency zone has been largely underestimated," Lagarde said.

"The euro has a future and has a long-standing one."

The former French finance minister spoke during a question-and-answer session that followed an address she gave at the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual conference of political and economic leaders held on the Chinese island of Hainan.

Her appearance prompted questions from audience participants about the situation in Cyprus, where the Mediter-

anean country struck a 10-billion-euro (\$13 billion) bailout deal with the EU, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund - the so-called troika.

Europe has struggled with financial crises and the troubles besetting Cyprus are the latest in a series of sovereign debt crises and bailouts -- most notably in Greece -- that have shaken global confidence.

Such concerns were highlighted Friday when a US Treasury official said uncertainty surrounding Europe's financial woes "remains a risk to our recovery and the global economic outlook".

The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew's upcoming visit to the EU.

Asked specifically about the prospect for further crises, Lagarde said: "I don't have a

crystal ball. My dearest hope is that there is not yet another country down the line that needs to be repaired and that could require support from both the European partners and the IMF."

She added, however, that Cyprus represented a unique case and reminded her audience that the country's economy amounted to a mere 0.2 percent of Europe's economy.

"I don't mean to be derogatory about this country," she said, noting its status as a member of Europe and of the IMF. "But it was a very specific case in many respects," she added, citing factors such as the size of the banking sector relative to the Cyprus economy.

Lagarde also said she hoped European authorities would learn from experiences over the past couple of years and "decide to accelerate the consolidation of their currency zone".

'Evil Dead' slays N. America box office in debut

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The reboot of the horror classic "Evil Dead" slayed its rivals in its opening weekend, topping the North American box office with \$26 million in ticket sales, industry estimates showed Sunday.

"Evil Dead," a reinvention of Sam Raimi's cult 1981 film about a group of friends hunted by demons in the woods, bested stone-age cartoon "The Croods," DreamWorks Animation's latest family crowd pleaser, which took in \$21 million.

Long-delayed sequel "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" -- an action film about a fantasy elite military unit starring Channing Tatum and Bruce Willis -- dropped from first to third place at \$20.5 million, according to Exhibitor Relations.

Paramount had postponed the sequel to 2009's "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra" from its original June release in order to add 3D effects.

The 3D re-release of Steven Spielberg's 1993 dinosaur classic "Jurassic Park" stomped back onto the big screen, raking in \$18.2 million in its opening weekend to earn fourth place.

"Tyler Perry's Temptation," a sultry thriller starring Vanessa Williams and Kim Kardashian, dropped from third to fifth place with \$12 million.

Action thriller "Olympus Has Fallen," a tale of terrorism in the US capital and a kidnapped president starring Gerard Butler and Morgan Freeman, fell to sixth place with \$9.5 million in box office receipts.

In seventh was Walt Disney's 3D fantasy adventure flick "Oz the Great and Powerful," which earned \$8.2 million in its fifth week in theaters, for a grand total of nearly \$213 million so far.

"The Host," an action-adventure film adapted from a novel by "Twilight" author Stephenie Meyer, was in eighth place with \$5.5 million.

Ninth place went to "The Call," a thriller starring Halle Berry as a 911 operator trying to rescue a young girl who has been abducted. It earned \$3.5 million.

The romantic comedy "Admission" starring Tina Fey and Paul Rudd rounded out the top 10, earning \$2.1 million.

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US lawmakers seek reason for Beyonce, Jay-Z Cuba trip



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Two US Republican lawmakers want to know if popular American pop star Beyonce and her husband, rap singer Jay-Z, had the US government's permission to travel to Cuba despite an economic embargo.

Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida on Friday sent a letter to Adam Szubin, director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control at the US Treasury Department, requesting information on the type of license Beyonce and Jay-Z received before traveling to Cuba.

"As you know, US law expressly prohibits the licensing of financial transactions for 'tourist activities' in Cuba," the pair wrote.

The lawmakers went on to say that these restrictions were in place because the Cuban government was listed by the US State Department as one of four state sponsors of terrorism and has "one of the world's most egregious" human rights records.

"Cuba's tourism industry is wholly state-controlled; therefore, US dollars spent on

Cuban tourism directly fund the machinery of oppression that brutally represses the Cuban people," Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart wrote.

Beyonce and Jay-Z created a stir Thursday as they toured the streets of Old Havana, with hundreds of Cubans turning out to catch a glimpse of the US

pop power couple.

Celebrating their fifth wedding anniversary, they visited historical landmarks in the heart of Old Havana, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. They snapped pictures and spoke with local residents.

Beyonce sang the US national anthem at President Barack Obama's inauguration in January and performed in the Super Bowl half-time show in February.

After visiting the cathedral, the couple had lunch in a nearby restaurant.

On Wednesday night, they also had dinner at La Guarida, one of Havana's most exclusive restaurants.

Americans are not allowed to visit Cuba and spend money there unless they have special US government permission.

According to regulations posted on the Treasury Department's website, "unless authorized by a general or specific license, any person subject to US jurisdiction who engages in any Cuba travel-related transaction violates the regulations and may be subject to penalties."

Criminal penalties for violating the regulations could result in up to 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in individual fines.

Thousands of Americans nevertheless visit Cuba every year without US permission, often via third countries. They are rarely prosecuted back home unless they flaunt their defiance of the rules.

Beyonce is a strong and vocal supporter of Obama and helped raise money for his 2012 re-election campaign.

In their letter, the Republican lawmakers noted that

numerous press reports described the couple's trip as tourism and that the Cuban government had touted it as such in its propaganda.

"The restrictions on tourism travel are common-sense measures meant to prevent US dollars from supporting a murderous regime that opposes US security interests at every turn and which ruthlessly suppresses the most basic liberties of speech, assembly, and belief," argued Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart, both Cuban-Americans. "We support the Cuban people by refusing to sustain their jailers."

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services pro-

gram. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to

purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Target apologizes over plus-size 'manatee' dress



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US retailer Target apologized this past week after a labeling gaffe that saw the color of a plus-size dress named after manatees, the blubbery denizens of the deep found off the Florida coast.

While the scale of the outrage caused by the blunder was not clear, Target was clearly not taking any chances by swiftly updating

the color label for its "Manatee gray" kimono maxi dress. Target moved to address the issue after a sharp-eyed online customer pointed out that the standard size dress in the same style and color was described as "dark heather gray."

"It is never Target's intention to offend our guests and we apologize for this unintentional oversight. We updated the color label to "gray" and the dress is only available on Target.com," a Target spokeswoman said.

The Target statement noted that "Manatee gray" was a color used across a range of products offered by the store.

The minor furor provoked bemusement among US commentators.

"Well, the manatee is also known as the sea cow, so someone who was obviously free-associating off the animal's name took this to be a slap at heavier women. Oversensitive much," remarked Karin Klein on the Los Angeles Times website.

Spanish youth protest around the world against unemployment



MADRID (AFP) - Spanish youths demonstrated Sunday in cities across Spain and near the country's embassies abroad against sky-high unemployment and poor working conditions which they say are forcing them to move abroad to find work.

Hundreds of youths marched to the din of drums and whistles in central Madrid behind a large black and white banner that read: "We are not leaving, they are throwing us out" while chanting "We don't want to go!"

Smaller protests were held in Barcelona and Zaragoza in Spain and over 30 other cities

around the world, from Vancouver to Vienna, where young Spaniards have emigrated in demonstrations organised by a grass-roots group called Youth without a Future.

The group posted photos of the demonstrations on its website, including one of eight youths who gathered in Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam

holding hand-made signs and of a protest of around 50 people staged in Berlin.

"We want to denounce the forced exile which young Spaniards are experiencing due to a lack of job opportunities," a spokesman for the group, Mikel Revuelta, told AFP at the end of the march in Madrid.

Spain is struggling through a double-dip recession sparked by the collapse of a decade-long building boom in 2008 that has driven its unemployment rate to 55 percent among those aged 16 to 24 and to a record 26 percent overall.

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SPORTS

Williams rallies to claim 49th WTA title

Continued from pg 16



Williams successfully defended her title by claiming her third overall Charleston crown one day after routing her sister Venus in the semi-finals.

She has won 22 consecutive clay court matches at WTA Tour events and Fed Cup and 15 straight matches in Charleston. That includes titles last year and 2008.

Bad blood between the two surfaced early in the second set with Jankovic serving after having just won the first set.

Jankovic was in mid-swing on a serve when Williams stopped and held up her racquet indicating she wasn't ready to play the point. The two then verbally sparred with Williams telling Jankovic to "wait until I am ready."

"Honestly, you have a

problem," Williams shouted across the net at Jankovic.

Jankovic then protested during the change over to the chair umpire telling him that Williams shouldn't get "special" treatment.

After the match, Williams insisted she, and Venus, are the most courteous players on the WTA Tour.

"I wasn't ready," said Williams. "I am the most respectful player, other than Venus. I am so respectful to my colleagues."

Unfortunately that respect doesn't always extend to line judges. At the 2009 US Open Williams once told a line judge she was going to shove a tennis ball down her throat.

Serbian Jankovic, who won this event five years ago, was aiming for her 14th career title. The ninth-seeded Jankovic had won 14 of her previous 16 matches.

Jankovic dropped to 4-6 all-time in matchups against Williams.

Williams clinched the title on her third championship point with a backhand winner to the open court that Jankovic couldn't get to.

Williams double faulted on the first championship point and then hammered a backhand into the net on the second one for a rare unforced error in the match.

Kenyans dominate Berlin half marathon



BERLIN (AFP) - Kenya's Jacob Kendagor won the Berlin half marathon on Sunday, and dipped under the hour mark for the first time in his career, as Kenyan runners dominated both the mens and womens races.

Kendagor, 29, came home in 59min 36secs to win the men's race ahead of compatriot's Silas Kipruto (1hr 12secs) and Victor Kipchirchir (1hr 27sec), while Helah Kiprop celebrated her 28th birthday by winning in 1hour 07.54min.

Compatriot Philes Ongori, who won the 2012 race, finished second in 1hour 08.01min with Japan's Mai Ito third in 1hour 10.00min to prevent Kenyan athletes claiming the top three places in both competitions.

This year the competition broke the record of participants, with more than 50,000 enrolled, which keeps the Parisian race among the most important in the world, along with London, Tokyo, Berlin and Boston.



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European football Sunday matches

Spanish league	Metalurg Donetsk 4 Karpaty Lviv 0
Osasuna 0 Espanyol 2 (Moreno 51, Wakaso 90+2)	Tavria Simferopol 0 Uzhgorod 2
Celta Vigo 0 Rayo Vallecano 2 (Piti 14, Delibasic 83)	Dynamo Kiev 1 Shakhtar Donetsk 2
French league	German Bundesliga
Saint-Etienne 1 (Hamouna 78) Evian 0	Nuremberg 2 (Nilsson 54, 69) Mainz 05 1 (Mueller 60)
Reims 1 (Krychowiak 53-pen) Lyon 0	Hanover 0 VfB Stuttgart 0
Lille 5 (Kalou 2, 33, Payet 8, Digne 31-pen, Rodelin 53) Lorient 0	English Premier League
Italian Serie A	Chelsea 2 (Kilgallon 47-og, Ivanovic 55) Sunderland 1 (Azpilicueta 45-og)
Fiorentina 2 (Ljajic 66-pen, Pizarro 73) AC Milan 2 (Montolivo 14, Flamini 62)	Liverpool 0 West Ham 0
Catania 0 Cagliari 0	Newcastle 1 (Cisse 90+3) Fulham 0
Sampdoria 1 (Munari 43)	QPR 1 (Remy 85) Wigan 1 (Maloney 90+4)
Palermo 3 (Von Bergen 35, Ilicic 50, Garcia 56)	Tottenham 2 (Adebayor 1, Sigurdsson 87) Everton 2 (Jagiella 15, Mirallas 53)
Siena 0 Parma 0	Playing Monday:
Udinese 3 (Di Natale 20, 25, Benatia 85) Chievo 1 (Papp 35)	Manchester Utd v Manchester City (1900GMT)
Inter 3 (Rocchi 43, Alvarez 57, 61) Atalanta 4 (Bonaventura 56, Denis 65-pen, 71 77)	Dutch league results
Napoli 2 (Pandev 18, Dzemal 29) Genoa 0	FC Utrecht 1 ADO Den Haag 0
Monday	FC Groningen 3 SC Heerenveen 1
Roma v Lazio (1845 GMT)	NEC Nijmegen 1 AZ Alkmaar 1
Ukrainian league	Ajax 4 Heracles 0

Djokovic's win puts Serbia in semis

BOISE, Idaho (AFP) - World No. 1 and Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic's victory over Sam Querrey of the United States on Sunday advanced Serbia into the semi-finals of the Davis Cup.

Djokovic, who had to battle through an ankle injury he suffered in the opening set, earned a 7-5, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1, 6-0 win to give the Serbians an insurmountable 3-1 lead in the best-of-five tie against the Americans.

It is the second win for Serbia in four years over the 32-time titlist USA. In their only other previous Davis Cup encounter Serbia defeated the Americans in Belgrade in 2010.

"I am happy I managed to

play the whole match," Djokovic said. "I played really well in the third and fourth set.

"I am sorry for team USA but it was a thrilling weekend for all of us."

Djokovic had to play through the pain of a bad ankle which he sprained in the third game of the opening set.

"I took some anti-inflammatories and they kicked in at the end of the second set. The anti-inflammatories were very strong," he said.

Djokovic said he probably wouldn't have finished the match if it wasn't a Davis Cup competition.

Serbia will now meet either Canada or Italy in the semi-finals in September.



Claire Lomas participates in a training run at Whitwell Leisure Park on April 7, 2013 in Leicester, England. Claire Lomas will complete the equivalent of a marathon a day on a hand bike, as part of her challenge to cycle 400 miles around the UK starting on April 22nd, aiming to raise money through JustTextGiving by Vodafone with the use of her unique text code, LEGS60.

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Pacquiao 'wants Macau fight'



FILES - (L-R) Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez stand face-to-face onstage in front of the media cameras during the Manny Pacquiao v Juan Manuel Marquez - Press Conference September 17, 2012.

MACAU, China (AFP) - Philippines boxing hero Manny Pacquiao wants his

next fight to be in Macau, according to his promoter Bob Arum, who says they are working on an autumn showdown in the casino enclave.

Negotiations are ongoing for a September rematch with Juan Manuel Marquez, who knocked Pacquiao out in December, Pacquiao's spokeswoman Rose Tamayo told AFP earlier this week.

Asked late on Saturday at The Venetian resort-hotel in

Macau if Pacquiao would be appearing there this year, Arum said: "I hope so, I certainly hope so. That will not be this summer, but will maybe be in the fall."

"I know he's expressed a desire to fight here, so we are working on that."

Pacquiao wants his next fight to be outside the United States, where he has traditionally fought in front of huge crowds and for enormous pay-per-view television revenues, to avoid high taxes.

Tamayo had said that Dubai and Singapore were also options.

Pacquiao, 34, has won an unprecedented eight world titles in different weight divisions, and was until recently regarded by many as the best pound-for-pound boxer.

But he lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown in June last year in a controversial points decision to US fighter Timothy Bradley, then suffered a knockout defeat to Marquez.

Lin says stereotypes held him back



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Jeremy Lin says he felt a sense of bigotry towards him when he wasn't offered a US college scholarship despite being named one of California's top players in his final high school year.

"Well, I think the obvious thing in my mind is that I was Asian-American, which, you know, is a whole different issue but I think that was a barrier," Lin said. "I mean it's a stereotype."

Speaking to the American news programme "60 Minutes", Lin says he likely would have been given a basketball scholarship to a major university if he wasn't Asian-American.

The "60 Minutes" show on Saturday released clips of the interview which aired last night.

The starting point guard for the NBA's Houston Rockets, led Palo Alto High School to a 32-1 record and a state championship in 2005-06. Lin finished with an average of 15.1 points, 7.1 assists and 5.0 steals per game and was named northern California's division two player of the year.

Lin eventually signed on with the basketball programme at Harvard University where he twice made the

Ivy League all-star team. Despite his success on and off the court at Harvard, Lin went undrafted by the NBA.

Asked by CBSNews.com if NBA teams passed on Lin because he was Asian-American, NBA commissioner David Stern said, "I think in the

true sense the answer to that is yes."

Lin eventually made his way to New York where the Knicks signed him as a reserve player whose job was to come into the game off the bench.

Lin was then thrust into a more prominent role when the club had two starters felled by injury.

He led the Knicks on a remarkable winning run and his brilliant individual play sparked the catchword "Linsanity".

The Knicks reached the playoffs and Lin was expected to play a big role for New York in the upcoming season.

But when the Houston Rockets made an offer of \$25 million for three years and the Knicks refused to match it, Lin departed for Texas where retired Chinese star centre Yao Ming played his entire NBA career.

Lin felt racism slaps last season such as an ESPN website headline "Chink in the armor" after he had a poor showing on the court.

Lin became a star in Taiwan, his parents' homeland, and China, where one of his grandparents is from.

Leafs and Red Wings to face off in outdoor game



NEW YORK (AFP) - The National Hockey League's annual outdoor game in 2014 will take place on New Year's Day in Michigan Stadium, the league announced on Sunday.

The Winter Classic game will feature the Detroit Red Wings hosting the Toronto Maple Leafs at the home of the Michigan Wolverines' American gridiron team.

The game was supposed to take place during the current NHL regular season, but a labour dispute and lockout of the players forced a cancellation of the NHL's outdoor game back in November.

Detroit and Toronto will be division opponents next season thanks to the NHL's new realignment plan that will begin at the start of the 2013-14 season.

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Michigan advances to championship to face Louisville



Photo left: Michigan Wolverines guard Caris LeVert and at right Louisville Cardinals guard/forward Luke Hancock (11) with guard Tim Henderson (15) celebrating their victories

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) - Mitch McGary finished with 10 points, 12 rebounds and six assists as the Michigan Wolverines advanced to the championship game of the

Final Four tournament with a 61-56 win over Syracuse Saturday.

Michigan (31-7) will be seeking its first US college basketball championship

since 1989 when it takes on Louisville tonight.

Michigan started slow Saturday but once it solved Syracuse's puzzling 2-3 zone defence in the first half they were able to open up a lead in the second half.

Tim Hardaway had a team-high 13 points and Caris LeVert and Spike Albrecht came off the bench to score eight and six points respectively for Michigan.

C.J. Fair scored 22 points to lead Syracuse (30-10) in the loss.

Top seed and tournament favourites Louisville rallied from a 12-point second-half deficit to knock off Wichita State 72-68 in a Final Four thriller at the Georgia Dome.

The Louisville Cardinals won their 15th game in a row to advance to today's national college basketball championship game.

Russ Smith led Louisville with 21 points and Luke Hancock added 20 points, including a corner three-pointer that gave the Cardinals their first lead of the second half at 56-55 with 6m 30s to play.

Louisville were appearing in the Final Four for the 10th time. They have won the national championship twice.



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Williams rallies to claim 49th WTA title

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AFP) - Serena Williams earned her 49th career singles title and third of the year by rallying to beat former world number one Jelena Jankovic in the final of the Family Circle Cup on Sunday.

The world No.1 Williams and former Charleston winner Jankovic got into a testy verbal exchange early in the second set after Williams accused Jankovic of trying to

rush her on the service return. After the exchange, Williams won 12 of the final 14 games.

"I am definitely happy to have another win under my belt. Excited to hold my title," said Williams, of her 3-6, 6-0, 6-2 victory on the green clay surface.

Williams successfully defended her title by claiming her third overall Charleston crown one day after routing her sister Venus in the semi-finals.

Continued on pg 14